

BOARD OF FINANCE

August 19, 2009

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, August 19, 2009.

Members Present: First Selectman McCarty, Mr. Volain, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Piccirillo, Ms. Brown, Mr. Monico

Members Absent: Mr. Doheny

Also Present: Director of Finance J. Michael Betz
Assistant Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski

The following materials were either mailed to the members or distributed at the time.

1. Agenda – August 7, 2009
2. Minutes of Regular Meeting held on May 20, 2009
3. July 31, 2009
 - Report of Budget
 - Report of Revenue
 - Special Funds
 - Board of Education Accounting
4. Letter, August 7, 2009- Unaudited Final Reports FY 2008-2009
5. June 30, 2009
 - Report of Budget - Final
 - Special Funds Report - Final
 - Report of Revenue - Final
 - Bd/Ed Accounting – Final
 - Tax Collection Reports (2)
 - Preliminary Financial Statements (1)
 - Budget and Expenditures Recap
6. Draft Resolution, Budget Transfers FY 2008-2009
7. Schedule of Expenditures Compared to Budget FYE June 30, 2009

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 20, 2009, Mr. Piccirillo moved their acceptance, seconded by First Selectman McCarty.

VOTE:	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes	Brown - Yes
	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes	McCarty - Yes

OLD BUSINESS

REPORT OF BUDGET, SPECIAL FUNDS, REVENUE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING JUNE 30, 2009

The Board members went over these reports and asked several questions. Mr. Monico said that our revenue fell short by \$574,000. He also said that he did not agree with the current budget's tax collection rate. He felt it was too aggressive given the current economic climate. Mr. Volain disagreed and said that the current tax collection rate of 98% was accurate and realistic. Further discussion followed with Mr. Monico and Mr. Volain expressing their opinions on both revenue and the tax collection rate.

RESOLUTION FY 2008-2009 BUDGET TRANSFERS

Mr. Volain began the discussion explaining that budget transfers are transferring money from under-expended accounts to over-expended accounts to balance the budget.

Mr. Monico questioned the legal expense transfer of \$180,000 and the public works transfer of over \$400,000. He said that these transfers were large and thought it would be prudent to bring the budget transfers to a town meeting.

Mr. Volain said that this was discussed at last September's Board of Finance meeting and that the Town Attorney researched the matter and found that the Board of Finance has the authority to move budgeted funds from one to department to another. Mr. Volain said that the money has already been expended and we are just making accounting entries.

Mr. Monico expressed his concern over the legal bills and suggested that we reel in the legal costs. He said that Town is using 10-11 law firms and questioned some of the excessive hourly rates that law firms were charging.

First Selectman McCarty said that 47 cases were transferred from the former administration to the current administration and that she is responding legally to defend the Town. She also stated that the legal expense line also includes settlements made to claimants.

Mr. Piccirillo then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves transfers in the appropriations of certain line items in the fiscal year 2008-2009 Budget, as follows:

Budget Transfers From: \$1,688,169.55

Budget Transfers To: \$1,688,169.55

Seconded by, First Selectman McCarty.

VOTE:	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes	Brown - Yes
	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - No	McCarty - Yes

OTHER

Mr. Monico questioned the fund balance as stated in the Preliminary Final Reports FY 2008-2009 of 7.7%. He came up with a different number - 6.9%. Mr. Swinkoski explained that 7.7% is accurate but it is subject to the auditor's adjustments and before transfers from closed funds.

Mr. Monico asked about the Library roof repairs. Mr. Betz said that the contract has been awarded and that a preconstruction meeting is scheduled for August 27th.

Mr. Monico asked whether the paving project at Montowese School was complete. The Police Chief confirmed that the work has been completed.

NEW BUSINESSREPORT OF BUDGET, SPECIAL FUNDS, REVENUE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION
ACCOUNTING JULY 31, 2009

Mr. Swinkoski referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of July were at 46.4%. Further discussion followed. The reports were accepted as presented.

REVAL UPDATE

The Town Assessor Gary Johns updated the Board members on the 2009 Reval. He distributed a 2009 GL Revaluation Status to the board. He then went over the schedule in detail. He said that the biggest issue is the volatile market and that sale prices on homes are still declining; but the quantity of sales has increased last month. The state requires that a full physical inspection be made every ten (10) years.

OTHER

Mr. Volain stated that after reviewing the Preliminary Final Reports, he was happy to say that there was a surplus for the year, we increased our fund balance and held the taxes down. He also thanked the department heads for keeping their costs down.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately 35 minutes with several residents asking questions and making recommendations/suggestions.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Volain moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM, seconded by First Selectman McCarty.

VOTE:	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes	Brown - Yes
	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes	McCarty - Yes